

OLYMPIC COAST
NATIONAL MARINE SANCTUARY
DRAFT Meeting Minutes

OCNMS Advisory Council Meeting
July 17, 2015

The Landing
Port Angeles, WA

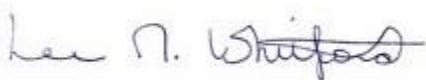
Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary
NOAA, Office of National Marine Sanctuaries
115 E. Railroad Avenue, Suite 301
Port Angeles, WA 98362-2925

Reviewed by OCNMS Superintendent:



Carol Bernthal, Superintendent

Approved by AC Chair:



Lee Whitford, Chair

Advisory Council (AC) Members/Alternates in Attendance: Lee Whitford (Education, Chair), Heather Reed (WDFW, Vice-Chair), George Hart (US Navy, Secretary), Bill Peach (Clallam County Commissioner), Frank Gordon (Grays Harbor Co. Commissioner), Les Bolton (Tourism/Economic Development), Steve Shively (Tourism/Economic Development Alternate), Bob Boekelheide (Citizen at Large), Roy Morris (Citizen at Large Alternate), John Veentjer (Marine Industry), Jan Newton (Research), Jodie Toft (Conservation), Rich Osborne (Marine Resources Committee), Casey Dennehy (MRC Alternate), Jessi Doerpinghaus (WDFW Alternate), Katrina Lassiter (WDNR), Josh Peters (WDNR Alternate), Christopher Krembs (WDOE), Jennifer Hagen (Quileute Tribe), Jennifer Brown-Scott (UWFWS), John Stadler (NOAA-NMSF), CPTN Brian Gilda (USCG), CDR Aaron Meadows-Hill (USCG Alternate), Steve Joner (Makah Tribe)

Presenters and Members of the Public in Attendance: Julia Parrish (UW and COASST), Scott Ferguson (WDOE ECY Spills), Chris Harvey (NWFSC), Nancy Messmer (Lions International), Judith Morris (Representative Kilmer's office), Mike Doherty (Port Angeles citizen), Tami Pokorny (Jefferson County), Gretchen Brewer (Port Townsend citizen), Julia Cochrane (Port Townsend citizen), Molly Bogeberg (The Nature Conservancy), Katie Wrubel (Makah groundfish biologist), Charlie, Eldon Housing (Clallam County citizen)

NOAA/OCNMS Staff in Attendance: Carol Bernthal, George Galasso, Liam Antrim, Nancy Wright, Nicole Harris, Heidi Pedersen, Jacqueline Laverdure, Kathy Hough, Karlyn Langjahr (OCNMS)

Bill Peach, Clallam County Commissioner, welcomed all council members to Port Angeles and Clallam County. Chair Lee Whitford called the meeting to order and reviewed the goals and purpose of the Advisory Council per its Charter.

Adopt Agenda – The draft agenda was adopted without changes. ***It was passed by full AC member consensus.***

Internal Affairs:

Approval of May 15, 2015 AC Meeting Minutes – The only edit was to add Brad Speidel's name to the list of presenters and members of the public. ***Roy Morris motioned to approve the meeting minutes with these changes and Katrina Lassiter seconded. There was no further discussion and the motion passed by full AC member consensus.***

Update on Climate Change Working Group– George Hart, Chair for the Climate Change Action Plan Working Group (CCWG), described recent meetings and discussions held by the CCWG. Draft documents justifying both the importance and relevance of ocean acidification and sea level rise for Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary were produced by members of the group and reviewed and discussed. Kevin Grant is researching the possibility of having two topics for sentinel site designation. The CCWG is interested in receiving more input and participation from representatives of the Coastal Treaty Tribes given their expertise and first-hand observations of sanctuary conditions. CCWG is still fleshing out Strategy 3, working with natural resource managers and local communities on the Olympic Peninsula to improve the

resilience of ecosystems in the face of climate change impacts. They hope to present a draft report and/or recommendation letter at the next advisory council meeting in September.

Sanctuary Classic– Carol reminded everyone that the Sanctuary Classic began on July 4 and will run through September 7, 2015. This annual recreational fishing photo contest promotes sustainable recreational fishing and good stewardship in national marine sanctuaries. There is a weekly winning photo, along with overall winners within several different categories including biggest (looking) fish, smallest (looking) fish, best conservation message, most family oriented, and more. A Sanctuary Classic 2015 factsheet can be found at

olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sanctuaryclassic2015_factsheet.pdf

Please share with your constituents to encourage participation from Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary. To learn more, visit:

www.sanctuaryclassic.org and sanctuaries.noaa.gov/news/jul15/sanctuary-classic.html.

Recommendation on Commercial Fishing Seat– Lee explained that discussions about the Commercial Fishing seat arose after the recent resignation from Commercial Fishing alternate member. OCNMS researched how other sanctuary advisory councils engaged members from the fishing community and how they were represented on their advisory councils. After discussions, the Executive Committee recommended to Carol that the council open up to a broader community by having a more general “Fishing” seat instead of the current “Commercial Fishing” seat. To do so, Carol would make an official request to ONMS to amend the Charter, and OCNMS would proceed to recruit Fishing Seat members to be seated in January 2016. The Fishing seat would allow for representatives from commercial fishing, charter fishing, recreational fishing and/or fish processing communities to seek council membership. WDFW, tribal representatives and other council members linked to recreational fishing communities could help recruit to this new audience with a goal of opening up the fishing perspectives on the council.

Information Items:

2014-15 Cassin’s Auklet Mortality Event – Dr. Julia Parrish, Executive Director of Coastal Observation and Seabird Survey Team (COASST) and UW Professor, provided an update on the winter 2014-15 mortality event of Cassin’s auklet. Seabirds are selected as environmental health indicators for several reasons: they are long-lived, they spend significant energy raising one chick each season, and they make long annual migrations (up to 64,000 km/year!). COASST is a citizen science program based out of the University of Washington (depts.washington.edu/coasst). OCNMS is the longest running federal partner to COASST. Volunteers are trained how to identify dead seabirds washed ashore beaches and use field guides to collect information, and they gather information on human use and activities, such as marine debris. In its 17 years, COASST has trained almost 3,000 people from northern California to Alaska at ~450 active sites monitored on a monthly basis. The entire span of Washington State’s coastline is represented and covered by volunteers spanning from retirees to students to families and more. Evidence for bird identification includes foot type,

measurements of several body parts, and a photograph with ruler for scale. Data collected by volunteers is then verified by experts, finding an overall accuracy of 84% by volunteers.

Data trends show three typical annual spikes in bird mortality, which serve as a baseline for long-term trends: 1) post-breeding mortality of exhausted adults and/or inept chicks, of which more than half are Common murre; 2) winter kills which are often marked by migratory Northern fulmars that die from cold, stormy conditions, difficulty in finding food, or exhaustion from post-breeding travels in Alaska; and 3) a more minor spike in deaths during spring migration, signaled by Rhinoceros auklets migrating back to nesting sites in British Columbia.

Cassin's auklets are small birds that dig burrows and feed on krill, other larger zooplankton and small fish. The center of their breeding population is located in the Scott Islands of British Columbia. In winter 2014-15 a massive influx of Cassin's auklets occurred with over 8,000 dead birds found on West Coast beaches by COASST volunteers, with the highest rate of 297 birds/km found in northern Oregon and a peak in the wreck during the months of November and December. There were four hypotheses as to why the Cassin's auklet wreck occurred: 1) winterkill, 2) surplus production offspring, 3) ecosystem shifts of change in food or lack of food, and 4) habitat compression, or a change in where the food is found. Data indicated that winter of 2014 was mild, without a higher number of storms or wind conditions than average, ruling out the first hypothesis. Reproduction was very successful in 2014, with higher than normal reproductive success. Data showed that chicks were larger than average, inferring that food availability was strong, which does not support the second hypothesis. A shift in copepods was observed, with higher abundance of the lower-value southern copepod compared to the usual fatty-rich northern copepods. This means that animals in the food web had less nutritious zooplankton available during the season, but Common murre did not die out as much as normal. This could indicate a change in the ecosystem, but not a big enough to change to impact forage fish. There was evidence for the fourth hypothesis with an anomaly of warmer water temperatures developing in the fall of 2013. Now commonly referred to as "the blob," the warmer waters created a much narrower belt of favorable food life close to shore, creating a loss of cold water refuge which contains the nutrient-rich northern copepods. Therefore there is evidence of habitat compression, but an uncertainty as to whether mortality of Cassin's auklets was different. Mortality could have been normal, with higher deposition on beaches due to the nearshore location of where Cassin's auklets would have been feeding. Further research may provide additional answers to this question. Julia's presentation will be posted online in the future after data has been published at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/sac_meetings2015.html.

Sanctuary-Related Aspects of WA Marine and Rail Oil Transportation Study— Scott Ferguson, WDOE, presented on sanctuary related aspects of the Washington Marine and Rail Oil Transportation Study, which was published March 1, 2015 (see: fortress.wa.gov/ecy/publications/documents/1508010.pdf). The purpose of the study was to assess public health and safety, along with environmental impacts associated with the transport of oil in Washington State. The recent boom in shale oil technology for economic growth and efforts towards fossil fuel self-reliance in the U.S. has created a massive expansion in

transportation of these resources. The various types of crude oil products, and the way they are transported, present various risks, not only at the state and national level, but internationally as well. The first oil train transited Washington in 2012, with observed expansion of rail and pipeline transportation and a decrease in vessel transportation. The state is at its annual capacity of transporting approximately 200 million barrels/ year. The landscape of existing and proposed refineries and facilities for crude oil by rail is rapidly evolving. For example, if additional facilities are built, Grays Harbor could see an increase from 100 to 800 ships/year. Trains are also beginning to enter the state from the southern route, which has the potential of impacting coastal traffic.

A recent Salish Sea Workshop captured and connected all Salish Sea traffic studies conducted since 2005 to look at the water ways. One trend observed is the increased size of container ships. Currently the most common size of ship ranges between 6,000-8,000 TEU (1 TEU = 20 foot equivalent unit”) but is expected to be replaced by 13,500 TEU ships in the area. Puget Sound has seven ports and seven commissions in competition with another. Recently a Seaport Alliance was created to attempt to bring area ports together instead of competing against each other. It hopes to draw more traffic in by attracting the 20,000 TEU ships that will become popular in the future. Increased use of Articulated Tug and Barges (ATBs) for crude oil transport has been observed, particularly along Columbia River.

The study provided data and analysis of statewide risks, gaps, and options for increasing public safety and improving spill prevention and response readiness. Overall forty-three recommendations came out of the study, highlighting the need for more inspections and prevention. The study found that the number of tankers and containerships is down, but their size is up; bulkers have had no rise to a slight rise; movements of ATBs have increased, with cape size and bulkers on the rise. Liquefied natural gas (LNG), methane stored at cryogenic temperatures, will become more popular as cargo and fuel. Internationally new expansions are being made (e.g. Panama Canal widening to be completed in 2016) to facilitate larger container ships.

Study findings shared that a well-established, robust marine prevention system is already in place, with improvements made every year. It called for comprehensive rail response plans, with added spill plan and expansion of geographic response plans in 52 sites, which has already begun. The study highlighted the need to assess different waterways in terms of which vessel types would use them, and what types of response training would be appropriate at those locations. In terms of rail preparedness, WDOE and others are working at both national and federal levels on contingency planning and liability protection for oil spills. Priorities for marine preparedness include equipment caches and emergency response plans. Scott outlined the various steps for moving forward, highlighting vessel traffic risk assessments for Columbia River and vessel traffic safety rules for Grays Harbor. WDOE will continue to conduct outreach, and SAC members can be involved in helping spread the word. For more information about the study, visit: www.ecy.wa.gov/programs/spills/OilMovement/2014MRstudy.html

Scott’s presentation can be accessed online at:

olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/wdoe_wa_mr_oil_transportation_study.pdf.

Public Comment – None at this time

Ecosystem Indicators for WA Marine Spatial Planning– Dr. Chris Harvey, NOAA Northwest Fisheries Science Center, presented on ecological indicators for Washington State’s outer coastal waters. The main focus of this work was to develop conceptual models and indicators for different habitats, primarily under the state’s Marine Spatial Planning process. People generally care about ecosystem attributes, which are difficult to measure, but required by legislative mandate. Development of indicators will assess the health and trends of ocean ecosystems, as well as detect changes in components of the ecosystem. Indicators are defined as the quantitative metrics reflecting the status or trend in the attributes. Assessing the health involved the following steps:

1. Develop conceptual models of key physical, ecological and human activities in habitats of the outer WA coast
2. Evaluate and select a portfolio of indicators for key components of conceptual models
3. Quantify the status and trends of these indicators

Six habitats were selected for making conceptual frameworks of ecological indicators: seafloor, large coastal estuaries, pelagic zone, sandy beaches, rocky shorelines, and kelp forest. They identified key components of conceptual model to include habitat, ecological components, climate and ocean drivers and human activities. Conceptual models should incorporate outreach component to general public and analytical component, with at least one indicator present for each of the four key components.

The process of evaluating indicators should allow for measurability of attributes so that they are transparent, repeatable and defensible and readily updated. Candidate indicators that could be used to measure key attributes were compiled for each of the habitats, followed by a screening process taking into consideration theoretical soundness, data availability and robustness, and applicability/ feasibility to people and management. Potential indicators are then rated and then scored based on peer-reviewed literature. Criteria was weighted by scientists, managers and stakeholders in the state and resulted in the creation of a final indicator table for each of the habitats. Status and trends are then tracked temporally, with time series information and spatiotemporally, which are less available due to greater difficulty in collecting them.

Chris delivered highlights of the status and trends:

- For the pelagic zone sea surface temperature (SST) ranked highly as an indicator for climate drivers and habitat quality. Water temperatures have been getting warmer, with a transition potentially occurring. Chlorophyll a and copepod abundance can be used as indicators of ecological integrity, showing that the healthier northern copepods are less available while southern copepods become more abundant.
- Seafloor habitat yielded dissolved oxygen (DO) as an indicator for of oceanographic drivers and habitat quality. Substrate and biogenic habitats rated highly for habitat quantity, but could use more data beyond the snapshot from Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) work. Groundfish and crustacean catch per unit effort (CPUE) and Tanner crab

female condition were rated for seafloor as well, with shorter time series but stable or increasing trends.

- Kelp coverage ranked highly as an indicator of habitat quantity for kelp forests and appears fairly stable from 2000. Sea otter abundance was rated for ecological integrity and appears stable, with a historic peak in population recently, with reproductive numbers slowing down comparatively. Wind gusts could indicate local weather drivers in kelp forests, but is highly variable. Recreational landings of kelp forest fish species could be used as indicator of human-derived extraction and mortality, with stable trends since mid 1980s.
- The rocky shore habitat has strong indicators, but lack time series data to connect to status and trend development. Wave height is an indicator of local weather.

Overall, narrowing down key indicators from a list of hundreds is extremely challenging, as well as finding time series data for the highly ranked indicators. NWFSC is working on detailed appendices for each of the habitats, attributes and indicators and will identify and close indicator and data gaps. Chris and the other Co-Principal Investigator, Kelly Andrews, both work on the California Current Integrated Ecosystem Assessment (IEA), with hopes to inform and collaborate on the next OCNMS Condition Report. Additional information can be found at <http://msp.wa.gov/msp-projects/ecosystem-indicators> and the link to the study is at http://www.msp.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/NWFSC_EcosystemIndicatorReport.pdf. Questions can be directed to Kelly.Andrews@noaa.gov or Chris.Harvey@noaa.gov. The presentation can be found online at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/ecological_indicators_wa_outercoast.pdf.

Olympic Culinary Loop— Steve Shively, Jefferson County Tourism Commission, presented on the Olympic Culinary Loop. Global trends show that more and more tourists chose travel destinations around food, as well as an interest in having a more intimate relationship with where their food comes from. Currently 61% of tourists are interested in destinations for culinary activities, which includes food festivals, winery tours, and more. Eight out of the ten most popular countries where international visitors come from stated that food is a major factor in their choice for U.S. travel. Dining/gastronomy ranked in the top 5 motivations for international tourists, but the Pacific Northwest (PNW) has not yet branded itself for its regional cuisine; therefore it has a vague image for our foreign guests, making it difficult to promote for food tourism. The World Food Travel Association lumped the PNW into a “Cascadia” foodshed, spanning from northern California to southwestern British Columbia. Discover America launched “Great American Food Stories” to market chef tours and generate international media and outreach. National Geographic defined “geotourism” as tourism which sustains and enhances the geographical character of a place, including its environment, culture, heritage, aesthetics and well-being of residents. More and more people are seeking, and able to find, an authentic taste in the area, while also personally meeting and/or interacting with the growers/producers, and the Olympic Peninsula offers these kinds of experiences. While Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary comprises a tiny piece in the regional/ global traveler’s perspective, the potential to create a sense of place is very strong.

Funding has been a limiting factor in Washington State unlike its surrounding neighbors, preventing WA from participating in National Geographic's site setting and map creation for the Central Cascades region. However, there will be an opportunity in 2018-19 when National Geographic will define and map the Salish Sea. Thirteen groups from the North Olympic Peninsula commissioned North Star to work on a branding piece for the Olympic Peninsula. They found that connection to nature was very strong, with an ideal road trip created by the loop highway system. Major attractors included Olympic National Park, the peninsula's scenery and natural beauty, beaches and ocean, as well as its proximity to Canada. While there is great potential for promoting and developing an "untold story" of the peninsula, several challenges were identified: limited accessibility, infrastructure, and accommodations, and unknown identities of some areas within the Olympic Peninsula.

The Olympic Culinary Loop (OCL) is the only organization represented by all 4 counties of the peninsula, and they produced a map that offers an ideal tourism piece serving business-to-business and business-to-consumer relationships. The Olympic Peninsula was recently featured in New Zealand's Gourmet Travel magazine, which is valued at \$20,000 for a full page advertisement. The article utilized OCL's guide and informational resources. The Olympic Peninsula already has many food-related events and celebrations and can maximize on collaboration among food/beverage partners to create complimentary pairings. OCL also plans to provide culinary education this fall with Peninsula College's new program on Hospitality and Eco-tourism. The OCL received more exposure with its brochure placed in swag bags for US Open golf tournament in Seattle this past summer and the future is exciting for this endeavor. Steve's presentation can be found online at:
http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/olympicculinaryloop_intro.pdf.

Pacific Rim Marine Debris Cleanup Effort– Dr. Nancy Messmer, Lions Club International, spoke about efforts to expand the Washington Clean Coast Alliance to a larger, international Pacific Rim Basin cleanup. The impacts of marine debris can include economic losses, human health and safety, habitat damage, wildlife injury/death, vessel damage and navigation hazards, non-native species transport. Organized volunteer efforts have been successful, with Washington CoastSavers taking the lead on hosting a web portal for organizing cleanups. This alliance (www.coastsavers.org) of partners and volunteers dedicates itself to keeping state's beaches clean of marine debris through cleanups, education and prevention. The WA coastline is cleaned twice a year, in Olympic National Park and Olympic Coast National Marine Sanctuary beaches, Coastal Treaty Tribe beaches, State Parks and Strait of Juan de Fuca. They also recruit volunteers to collect data on the marine debris, filling out forms created by Ocean Conservancy. Ocean Conservancy works in 153 countries and all 50 states and has produced data sheets for analyzing and displaying cleanup data. Volunteers are also encouraged to separate recyclable materials from non-recyclable items.

The Washington Clean Coast Alliance began collaborating with Japan following the 2011 earthquake and tsunami, increasing awareness and response to the marine debris generated

from that natural disaster and to the broader issue of ocean interconnectivity through currents. From these dialogues and meetings, the idea of having a larger global reach emerged. Organizations working with volunteers internationally were considered ideal as a starting place, and three groups were identified to work on expanding cleanup efforts: Lions Club International (www.lionsclubs.org), Surfrider Foundation (www.surfrider.org), and Ocean Conservancy (www.oceanconservancy.org). Lions Club International created a video on their Earth Day cleanup efforts which will be released next year. Another site of interest is www.bagasurf.org, created by an American living in Japan, where photographs of garbage collected by an individual are taken and then uploaded to an interactive map, bringing a visual element into the scene. In June 2015 30,000 Lions Club members came together in Honolulu for an international convention on how to improve people-to-people service efforts, but the issue is not yet a focus topic of Lions Club International. To volunteer or partner in this effort, or to help identify partners/organizations and share ideas for this growing effort, contact able@olypen.com. Nancy's presentation can be found online at: http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/pacificrimcleanup_nancymessmer.pdf

Public Comment – None at this time.

Member Reports & Future Agenda Topics

- Heather Reed noted that commercial and recreational crab fishing closures are in effect south of Point Chehalis due to domoic acid, but still open north of that point. Stock assessments for groundfish came out and declared Canary rockfish and Petrale sole as rebuilt.
- Roy Morris announced that the International Coastal Cleanup will take place on Saturday, September 19 this year. Register at www.coastsavers.org.
- Katrina Lassiter shared that all Marine Spatial Planning (MSP) projects have been completed and nearly all have been posted online at <http://msp.wa.gov/msp-projects>. The state fully funded WCMAC's request of \$925,000 to finish the coastal MSP plan. They anticipate having a draft in late spring/ early summer of 2016. In the meantime they will conduct more significant outreach. If anyone has creative or effective outreach methods, contact katrina.lassiter@dnr.wa.gov.
- John Stadler shared that the September PMFC will review a range of alternatives for changes to the measures that minimize adverse effects of fishing on Groundfish EFH. NOAA-NMFS was also asked to consider using some of the discretionary authorities under the Magnuson-Stevens Act to look at options for protecting deep sea corals. Another issue from the most recent meeting expressed by the Coastal Treaty Tribes is changes to EFH management measures that occur in tribal U&A to exercise their Treaty Rights. The PMFC allowed alternatives to include changes to management measures in tribal U&A, contingent upon government-to-government consultation.
- Jennifer Brown-Scott noted that USFWS will be receiving funding to bring people together from California, Oregon and Washington to discuss surveying all bird species in the California Current. There is a request to list Tufted puffins under federal Endangered Species Act, but there are too many data gaps to prove their population status. They are holding a Geology Walk on July 18 on the Dungeness National Wildlife Refuge as part of their Centennial

Celebrations from 11am-2pm. On August 15 they will host a shorebird walk with Audubon Society. For more information visit <http://dungeness100.com/>

- Jan Newton announced that that NOAA sent emergency funds to study Harmful Algal Blooms (HABs) and provide kits and produce a condition report, involving NANOOS. “The Blob” can be viewed online (www.nanoos.org) for real time conditions. The website will have a new visual appearance and Jan welcomes feedback from members. Funding has been renewed for Washington Ocean Acidification Center and they hosted their first science symposium on June 26 at UW in Seattle.
- Rich Osborne shared that all project proposals have been received for two year grant funding through Marine Resources Committee (MRC). They will host the annual MRC Summit at LaPush October 15-17.
- Jodie Toft mentioned that The Nature Conservancy acquired nearly 3,200 acres on the Hoh River in March, connecting 32 miles of river connected down to the sanctuary. \$11 million has been designated from the Capitol budget for the Washington Coastal Restoration Initiative. Twelve finalists have been selected for the Washington Coast Works sustainable small business competition (<http://wacoastworks.org>). The winner will be announced in October and awarded a prize of \$20,000. TNC is also working on bringing climate-ready modeling and science to influence the Shoreline Master Program, just south of the sanctuary
- Commander Aaron Meadows-Hills provided updates on the Arctic Shell vessels conducting exploratory drilling. Over 30 vessels associated with the exploration are expected to travel back through the area, either to Portland or Seattle. The implementation date for examinations of commercial fishing vessels will take place on October 15. USCG approved a Chief Engineer of commercial fishing vessels course, with a credential that will allow for retention of more qualified commercial fishing vessel operators. In recent years the states of Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana have had a huge increase in human-powered craft deaths compared to motor crafts. They are working on increasing education and outreach to help prevent accidents. Captain Brian Gilda added that there are voluntary ways for both recreational and charter fishing vessels to comply with safety and environmental rules by having USCG go aboard to conduct dockside exams. Finally, USCG turns 225 years on August 4.
- John Veentjer shared that the next Harbor Safety Committee meeting will take place on August 5 at Harley Marine on Harbor Island; the main topic of discussion will be earthquakes.
- George Hart shared that USN met with sanctuary staff to begin consultation about the Northwest Training and Testing Environmental Impact Study. Navy is working on identifying the scope of proposed activities relative to OCNMS.
- Bob Boekelheide noted that El Niño will be interesting for the birding community, with nesting birds possibly experiencing difficulties next year. He expects larger numbers of Heermann’s Gull and Brown Pelicans to be observed, with potential for other rarities such as Elegant terns or Brown boobies.

Superintendent’s Report – Carol shared highlights of sanctuary activities in the past two months, referring council members to the July 2015 Office Report for further details and activities, which can be online at:

http://olympiccoast.noaa.gov/involved/sac/officereport_july_2015.pdf.

1. Due to mechanical problems with the research and monitoring vessel, RV *Tatoosh*, there have been delays in retrieving the data from deployed oceanographic mooring buoys.
2. The education program has been extremely busy with summer Jr. Oceanographer and Marine Technology camps, teacher workshops, multiple outreach events, finishing the NOW Science season with Feiro Marine Life Center and more. An upcoming cultural event with Hoh Tribe will explore the Hoh watershed on a multi-day rafting and camping trip to visit cultural sites and discuss stories about their relationships to natural resources and tribal culture.
3. The sanctuary will meet with Intergovernmental Policy Council next week. Nancy Wright has been working with Rob Jones, Northwest Indian Fishing Commission, on the habitat framework and identifying the resources needed to staffing options to support the project.
4. OCNMS received funding to conduct an ROV survey in the zone where the crushed cars were found in 2013 near Cape Flattery.
5. Sanctuary staff attended the ocean acidification symposium hosted by UW's Washington Ocean Acidification Center and made connections for moving forward on the concept of OCNMS as a sentinel site for ocean acidification.
6. A celebration event took place for expansion of Cordell Bank and Greater Farallones national marine sanctuaries during the same weekend as Get into Your Sanctuary.
7. The first AmeriCorps member completed her term assisting with education and outreach along with support to the coastal cleanups. OCNMS is recruiting a new person to fill this capacity. Three NOAA Office of Education Hollings Scholars have wrapped up their summer terms with the sanctuary; two ran summer camp education programs with Feiro Marine Life Center and the other analyzed data for the marine debris monitoring program. A Nancy Foster Scholar will support OCNMS with research on sea otters in the sanctuary and work on ecosystem indicators.

The next OCNMS Advisory Council meeting will take place on **Friday, September 25th** in Taholah, WA.